

bombing missions. They proved that “the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,” as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities. In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said: “Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston: Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.; Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.; Rev. Crawford W. Kimble; Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch; Rev. William A. Lawson; Rev. Johnnie Jeffery “J.J.” Robeson; Mr. El Franco Lee; Mr. John Brand; Ms. Ruby Moseley; Ms. Dorothy Hubbard; Ms. Doris Hubbard; Ms. Willie Bell Boone; Ms. Holly HogoBrooks; Mr. Deloyd Parker; Ms. Lenora “Doll” Carter.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all. Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America. We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation. It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

#### RECOGNIZING TEAM OF PARTICIPANTS IN SOLAR DECATHLON 2015

#### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a team from Alfred State College of Technology and Alfred University selected to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2015. The team will complete a series of projects and initiatives, culminating in the construction of an energy-efficient, solar-powered house. Selection for participa-

tion in this event is a remarkable honor, with positions awarded to only 20 collegiate teams from across the country and around the world.

Throughout the competition, students will develop energy-efficient designs, products, and technologies. The Solar Decathlon will provide students with practical training in engineering and architecture fields while allowing them to gain real-world experience. Students will gain valuable skills, enabling them to pursue careers in the expanding clean energy industry.

The availability of renewable energy is essential in today's world. Energy-efficient designs and technologies reduce costs and energy consumption while protecting local communities and facilitating economic growth. As the need for energy continues to grow it is critical that we develop new methods for producing sustainable sources of renewable energy. Solar Decathlon 2015 will encourage a new generation of young engineers and entrepreneurs to face this challenge. I am confident that these students will develop innovative solutions and new technologies that will benefit families and businesses in my district and across the country.

I once again congratulate the team of students from Alfred State College of Technology and Alfred University on their participation in Solar Decathlon 2015. I am proud to recognize this great achievement and I look forward to witnessing the great things that these students will accomplish.

#### HONORING ARCHIE TUCKER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Archie Tucker.

In 1974, while still in high school, Mr. Tucker was hired by former ARS Mid-South Director Ed King as a biological aide during a time when there were no minority administrators or scientists at the station. Since then, Mr. Tucker has followed a nearly four-decade career as one of the highest-ranking African-Americans in the ARS's Mid-South Area.

After graduating from Leland High School, Mr. Tucker enrolled at Mississippi Valley State University while retaining his part-time job at the ARS's Stoneville station. He majored in business administration to gain administrative knowledge to go along with the research expertise he was learning each week.

After graduating from the MVSU, Mr. Tucker was promoted to a full-time biological lab technician in 1980.

Seven years later, he again was promoted to area property manager and eight years later, he became the first African-American Area Administrative Officer in ARS history. Mr. Tucker noted that each promotion brought additional responsibilities.

In 1997, Mr. Tucker became the Mid-South's Area's first African-American Deputy Mid-South Area Director and in 2011, broke another barrier by assuming his current post as Mid-South Area Assistant Director.

Mr. Tucker is charged with managing a \$110 million annual budget and has overseen the renovation of the Jamie Whitten Center,

the service's main facility in Stoneville, the principal headquarters of the Mid-South area, which includes Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Louisiana. Here, Mr. Tucker oversees research stations employing more than 1,000 workers in all. Mr. Tucker credits others, particularly former Director King, for his advancement.

The Stoneville offices were recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, for their diversity. Mr. Tucker said the station now includes many African-American administrators and scientists.

Mr. Tucker has made assisting future scientists, a priority, collaborating on research projects with several traditionally black schools, including Alcorn State, Tuskegee and Alabama A&M Universities.

The Stoneville station also has been involved with local school districts, conducting tours for students and in 2012 launched the Future Scientists Program, a collaboration between the service and the Texas A&M University Extension Program, which has scientists visiting classrooms, judging science fairs and students touring the Stoneville facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Archie Tucker for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African-American community.

#### IN HONOR OF HINTON MILLS

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hinton Mills in Fleming County, Kentucky, and to congratulate them on the 31st Anniversary of their Seed Days Customer Appreciation Event.

Hinton Mills, with four locations serving the Fleming county area, was founded by Frank L. Hinton in 1918. Frank L. Hinton was born in the Plummers Mill area of Fleming County in 1891 and orphaned at the age of six. He began his own business at the age of sixteen, and opened a small store six years later.

Soon after, he began operating a much larger store; this store thrived under the leadership of Frank L. until his retirement in 1956. The store continued with success under Frank O. Hinton, who added a feed mill to the Hinton Mills family. Fleming County Farm Supply was opened in 1977. Today the fourth generation of Hinton's are serving area farmers at four locations; Fleming Co. Feed Supply, Frank Hinton and Son, Jabetown Mill and May's Lick Mill.

Hinton Mills is well-known for their wide-range of products, quality feed, and customer service, and it also contributes to the region in many other ways. The Hinton family has always been involved in the community through service on various boards as well as active involvement with FFA chapters in the area.

Seed Days began as a way for Hinton Mills to honor its customers and is now in its 31st year. Food and fun abound at each of the four locations during Seed Days. While the Hinton family honors their community through Seed Days this week, I would like to honor their devotion and service to the Sixth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Hinton Mills on their success

in business as well as the 31st Annual Seed Days. I would also like to extend my personal appreciation to Hinton Mills and all of its employees for all that they have done and continue to do for our community our the Commonwealth.

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CONGRATULATIONS GAIL SANDE

**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, this week, at its Public Media Summit in Washington, D.C., the Association of Public Television Stations (APTS) honored Gail Sande, Member of the Board of Trustees, KNPB Public Broadcasting in Reno, with the 2014 National Advocacy Award for her exceptional efforts in support of public television.

Said Patrick Butler, president and CEO of APTS, "Gail is a tireless advocate for public broadcasting, helping to advance bipartisan support of public broadcasting in Congress. She has demonstrated tremendous effectiveness on both sides of the Hill and both sides of the aisle."

Gail is the immediate past Chairman of the Board and stepped down after serving in that position for three years. She is a Trustee of the National Association of Public Television Stations. Gail serves on the Nevada State Board for the Humanities and is a board member for the First Tee of Northern Nevada and the American Heart Association.

She has been a dynamic member of the Reno community for the past 37 years. Some of Gail's activities have included serving as vice president and development chairman for the Lear Theater, a member of the Reno Tahoe Young Professional Network advisory board, treasurer of Young Audiences, president of the Roy Gomm Parent Facility Association, treasurer of the Sons of Norway, president of Law Wives and director of community relations for the Assistance League of Reno/Sparks.

A graduate of the University of Nevada at Reno—go Wolf Pack—Gail was an operations officer at First National Bank of Nevada until 1977, when she retired from the business world to be a stay-at-home mom and community activist.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Gail, and thank you for all you do to make Northern Nevada a better place.

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RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the voice of 184,995 workers in my state that will be positively affected by the minimum wage increase—nearly 20% of my state's total workforce.

Families and parents are struggling financially because we have failed to keep up with the rising costs of living.

The Economic Policy Institute found that "at the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, a parent who works full time, year round, [still] does not earn enough to be above the federal poverty line."

For these Americans, working hard year round will not be a gateway to gradual success, because in their realities, it does not even mean that you will be above the federal poverty line.

For these parents, our very own constituents, the pursuit of happiness, the American dream, and ultimately being able to mobilize economically is but a faint light forever out of reach.

In 2009, we raised the minimum wage in order to keep up with the rising costs of living thereby admitting that an irresponsible minimum wage causes financial hardship for the families that we are elected to represent.

People, we have a track record for making the impossible possible for Americans, so, now, I speak on behalf of those families in need when I say that we have a responsibility as public servants to see to it that a parent who works full time, year round, can live above the poverty line.

It is our moral obligation to see to it that our families earning minimum wage can have the means to economic mobility. Thus, we as legislators should rise to this challenge in order to ensure that all Americans have not only the opportunity to pursue their happiness—but that they also have the means to achieving success.